

# Reflecting the Past, Shaping the Future: Making AI Work for International Development

## Description

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USAID, September 2018. 98 pages. [Available as PDF](#)

**Rick Davies comment:** A very good overview, balanced, informative, with examples. Worth reading from beginning to end.

## Contents

Introduction

Roadmap: How to use this document

Machine learning: Where we are and where we might be going

â€¢ ML and AI: What are they?

â€¢ How ML works: The basics

â€¢ Applications in development

â€¢ Case study: Data-driven agronomy and machine learning at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture

â€¢ Case study: Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator

Machine learning: What can go wrong?

â€¢ Invisible minorities

â€¢ Predicting the wrong thing

â€¢ Bundling assistance and surveillance

â€¢ Malicious use

â€¢ Uneven failures and why they matter

How people influence the design and use of ML tools

â€¢ Reviewing data: How it can make all the difference

â€¢ Model-building: Why the details matter

â€¢ Integrating into practice: It's not just "Plug and Play"

Action suggestions: What development practitioners can do today

â€¢ Advocate for your problem

â€¢ Bring context to the fore

â€¢ Invest in relationships

â€¢ Critically assess ML tools

Looking forward: How to cultivate fair & inclusive ML for the future

Quick reference: Guiding questions

Appendix: Peering under the hood [ gives more details on specific machine learning algorithms]

See also the associated [USAID blog posting](#) and maybe also [How can machine learning and artificial intelligence be used in development interventions and impact evaluations?](#)

## Category

1. Books

## Date

22/12/2024

## Date Created

15/11/2018

## Author

admin